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PRESSING HELPS GIVE TAILORED LOOK

Careful cutting and fine stitching are important in striving for a "tailored" look in dresses and suits turned out in the home workshop, _____, clothing specialist of _____ (name) _____ (name of institution), says, but a tailored finish is also a matter of pressing. Pressing is important at various stages of the work, she says, and then when the garment is finished.

She suggests first pressing the folds and wrinkles out of the fabric before starting to cut it. If the parts of the pattern are pressed, the cutting can be more accurate, too.

If ornamental features, such as pockets, are made before sewing up the seams, they can be pressed while the section is flat. Collars, cuffs, and other parts made separately, may be more conveniently pressed as they are completed and before they are attached to the garment. After darts, tucks, or pleats have been basted and that portion of the garment tried on, it is time to stitch and then press these details.

Stitched seams are pressed open, particularly if they are later crossed by other seams, as when the waist and skirt of a dress are joined. Sometimes the iron can be used instead of basting a hem or turning a narrow edge. It is a great help in making bias binding or piping that must be folded evenly.

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